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NO. 81

JANUARY 72

ETCETERA & THE COMIC READER

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NATIONAL

Deadman will appear in The Forever People beginning with issue number 9. The treatment is true to the saga, contrary to many rumors. The trick-- He hasn't caught his killer yet. Look are carefully at Strange Adventures 205 and 215 and you'll note that the Hook wore his hook on the opposite hand of the killer. This wasn't intentional. However, it leaves room in the saga for this revival. Kirby treats Deadman a touch differently artistically and from a writing point of view there's a bit of a difference too but the result is pleasant. The title is "The Monster In The Morgue". Out in April.

Lois Lane gets a new look and a new life in number 120 when she becomes a free-lance reporter and moves into an apartment with some room-mates. 121 will feature a combination Lois/Rose & Thorn story.

A possible new reprint feature in Lois is Bureau Of Missing Villainesses. Nice thought. That could include such luminaries are the Harlequin and the original Thorn.

The line-up of the Batman 100-Pager is set so here it goes...

"Bat-Gyro" -- from Detective 31 and 32 the first story of a specialized mode of Bat-transiat. Plus the first appearances of Julie Madison (Bruce Wayne's fiancée) and the Batarang. Batman uses a gun in this issue.

"Batmobile Of 1950" -- from Detective 156. It's the intro of the bubble top Batmobile.

Oh yes--the theme of the issue is, if you hadn't guessed, transportation.

The Atom in "Battle Of The Tiny Titans" --his first travel by phone trick from his first costumed appearance, Showcase 34.

Doll Man stars in the first tale of his dog transit, Elmo. From Doll Man 31.

Wonder Woman is represented by a story which features two of her methods of transit--the robot plane and a giant kangaroo. Also the origin of the magic lasso. And an appearance of the Baroness Paula Von Gunta. From Sensation6

Wildcat appears in the first story of his catocycle and Stretch Skinner. From Sensation 4.

Blackhawk returns! "Treasure From Ghanpat" is from no. 10 and features the old, twin-engined planes. That's the May giant folks.

The Jimmy Olsen giant will be an all magician issue. JO will include the Sandra & Magi stories. Other contenders for spots in the issue are Sargon, Zatara, Dr Fate, Lando, and maybe Zatanna (not solo, but one of her early team-ups).

After the Jimmy Olsen giant the order of the giants may be altered (and, if sales are great added to).

CONGRATULATIONS to Len Wein and Glynis Oliver. They are engaged.

DC got their figures in and are holding a meeting on Jan. 6, three days after I type this. If by some miracle they actually let me print some of the news this issue you'll find it in place of some sort of regular column deep in the heart of the issue. That is an apology for any lack of headlines.

GL/GA will appear in one of Julie Schwartz's books but he doesn't wish to

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say which one. So here's an alphabetical list and use your common sense: Batman, Detective, Flash, From Beyond, Justice League, Strange Adventures, Superman, and World's Finest. Guess!

Steve Ditko will not be doing any work for DC in the predictable future.

Neal Adams handed in the last issue of Green Lantern-Green Arrow a mere 18 weeks late. The job was nice, though.

Steve Skeates is writing a Zatanna short because Len Wein fell behind on his deadlines.

There will be a full-length Supergirl story guest starring the Justice League in the near future (mid-420s).

Tony DeZuniga will probably do another Phantom Stranger story to fill in for Jim Aparo who is tied up by some outside problems.

The fifth issue of Weird War will be an all-robot issue.

GI Combat 154 and 155 feature a Haunted Tank story in Russia.

Eclipso reprints will remain in Action Comics for a while. As a point of reference for new fans there were two by Lee Elias then Alex Toth took over.

Every issue of Tarzan will feature a three page story by Hal Foster reprinted from the Sunday pages with new text. The fill-in Tarzan issue between stories will feature 29 pages of material from the Sunday strips by Burne Hogarth!

John Carter Of Mars will continue uninterrupted during the filler issues. Oh yes...these stories will be done in dialogue and will not look like the original Sunday pages in format.

Contrary to the last issue of Newfangles All Star Western will not be going to all-new material. Bat Lash will begin in number 14 and will rotate with El Diablo and Jonah Hex for the lead slot.

The new title of Dark Mansion is Forbidden Tales Of Dark Mansion. Effective with number 5, I believe.

Marv Wolfman is helping Julie Schwartz part time (he remains Joe Kubert's assistant on a more regular basis).

Mimi Gold is doing letter collumns and proofreading for DC, most notably for Joe Kubert's books.

Correction: I incorrectly listed the title of JLA 97 as "The Day The Earth Springs". It should have been "The Day The Earth Screams".

Correction: It wasn't clear last ish (at least according to Mark Hanerfeld) that Batgirl will reveal her secret id to her father. Mark says that if you read my verbiage literally you get the idea of some adventures that the code would not approve.

There will be a reprint of a Hawk And Dove story in Teen Titans number 39.

The issues whose covers appear below will be on sale in March.

COVER GALLERY

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MARVEL

Conan is being restored to monthly publication with no. 16. That issue will reprint "The Frost Giant's Daughter" from Savage Tales with some new pages.

Gil Kane is leaving Gullivar after the second installment to make room for Ross Andru. Andru may not do it for long, though.

New official editor at Marvel--Roy Thomas. New assistant eds--Steve Engelhart, Mike Friedrich, and Gerry Conway. A special thank you to Roy and Steve for their co-operation in bringing you the following Coming Comics listing.

The Harlan Ellison plotted Avengers story illoed by Rich Buckler is slotted for no. 101.

Spoof will reappear during the summer. Probably first as a special, then as a regular book.

Look for new stories of the Outlaw Kid (14-15 pgs) by Mike Friedrich and Dick Ayers in his revived book.

Doc Savage will be out a little later than planned due to schedule & contract hang-ups.

Rich Buckler will do one Ka-Zar, Neal Adams' Man-Thing will become part of another, and John Buscema will probably do some more work on the strip beyond the one story he's finished.

There'll be more original material in the various monster mags. Some of this will be sword & sorcery stuff.

The above mentioned new Outlaw Kid story is an origin story.

Iron Man has returned to monthly status according to the production schedule.

The writers of some Marvels are being switched around. I'll run them down in the CC listings of the books as I find them out.

The Cover -- A Rich Buckler rendition of Ka-Zar and Zabu whom he is illustrating for Astonishing Tales 13. Ka-Zar is a (c) character of Marvel Comics Group.

This plug is directing you to Comic Fandom Monthly magazine, where you will find all sorts of very good articles on the comic art field (and some by me on Comic Economics).

MCG Coming Comics

THOR (199, May). The soul of Odin is the cause of an ownership debate between Hela and Pluto. Odin is dead, by the by. On sale on February 8.

DAREDEVIL (87, May). The Black Widow and DD move to San Francisco where they face the menace of Electro. Many new characters are introduced in this issue. On sale on February 8.

IRON MAN (46, May). Now monthly! This is the last issue by Gary Friedrich as Kevin becomes the Guardsman and dies in battle. And Iron Man is implicated in the whole mess. On sale on February 8.

KID COLT OUTLAW (159, May). Reprints, naturally. On sale on February 8.

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (9, May). More reprints of The Outlaw Kid, The Black Rider, and the Apache Kid. On sale on or about February 8.

+

SUB-MARINER (49, May). This is the last Gene Colan issue as the story-threads involving Doctor Doom, Subby, Modok, and the Cosmic Cube are all neatly drawn to a close. On sale on February 15.

INCREDIBLE HULK (151, May). The villain for this month's Hulk thriller is the Crawling Unknown...a foe that even the Hulk can't stop. On sale on February 15.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (108, May). Flash Thompson is the prize in Spidey's battle with the Viet Nam based "Death Cult." The story isn't a war saga, though. On sale on February 15.

THE AVENGERS (99, May). The return of Hawkeye along with the finalization of the last few hanging plot threads of the Kree-Skrull epic. Also starring in this issue is Hercules. Oh yes, Hawkeye is in his archer role but has a brand-new costume. On sale on February 15.

CAPT. AMERICA & THE FALCON (149, May). Gerry Conway takes over the scripting chores and pits Cap against Batroc The Leaper. Ah yes, Batroc has a new secret identity.(Hey Gerry--what was his old one?) On sale on February 15.

MARVEL TEAM-UP (2, May). Gerry Conway takes over the writing of this book as Spider-Man and The Human Torch forces once more to battle the threat of The Frightful Four (The Wizard, the Trapster, and the Sandman). On sale on February 15.

+

RAWHIDE KID (99, May). On sale on February 22.

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (15, May). No serious action here. On sale on February 22.

AMAZING ADVENTURES (12, May). Steve Englehart takes over the scripting of The Beast and leads him into a battle with Iron Man. More of the mutant's origin in this issue also. On sale on February 22.

MY LOVE (17, May). On sale on February 22.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (15, May). Barry Smith closes out an enourmously successful time on this series with the conclusion of the Elric novel. Script by Moorcock & Thomas. On sale on February 22.

RED WOLF (1, May). The return of the Indian super-hero of the Wild West. Art by Syd Shores (pencils and inks). The book is a bi-monthly. On sale on February 22.

RINGO KID (14, May). On sale on February 22.

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FANTASTIC FOUR (122, May). Get yer scorecard! Gabriel and Galactus battle it out with The Fantastic Four and the Silver Surfer. If it sounds like FF 50 all over again, well, that ish was a winner! On sale on February 29.

SGT. FURY (98, May). Dum Dum commands a dozen commandos of his own -- "Dum Dum's Deadly Dozen". On sale on February 29.

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (17, May). Gullivar Jones, Warrior Of Mars reaches the end of the River Of The Dead and faces danger there. On sale on February 29.

TWO-GUN KID (104, May). On sale on February 29.

TOMB OF DRACULA (2, May). Now bi-monthly. Count Dracula stalks the city of London in search for his stolen coffin. On sale on February 29.

MARVEL PREMIERE (2, May). Now bi-monthly. Warlock walks the counter-Earth and pursues his New Testament adventures in battles with Rhodan and the Hounds of Helios. There might be a Yellow Claw reprint in this one.

HERO FOR HIRE 1, scheduled originally for February release and listed as such on the Bullpen Checklist has been postponed for one month due to the normal production hassles that hit everybody now and then. Be not misled!

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DC Coming Comics

THE FOREVER PEOPLE (8, May). "The Power" is passed on to a man who intends to use it to rule the world! At least until he meets Darkseid and The Forever People. Sandman and Sandy star in "The Dreams Of Doom", a golden age classic. On sale on February 1.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (244, April). Russ Heath wrote and illustrated this issue's lead-- "Rock Is Easy's First Tiger!", Sam Glanzman's War Diary focuses on "Another Liberty". DD 479:USS Stevens is represented by "What Do They Know Of War?". Reprint fillers in this issue are: "Wheels For A Fort" (Mort Drucker art), "Silent Tin Can" (Jack Abel art), "Dive Bombers Of Midway" (Ken Barr art), and "Pin-Up Tank" (art by Andru and Esposito). On sale on February 1.

FALLING IN LOVE (131, April). On sale on February 1.

DC 100-PAGE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (DC-11 / THE FLASH (214, April). The Flash (1960s edition) in "The Gauntlet Of Super Villains" and "The Weather Wizard Blows Up A Storm". The original Flash stars in an unpublished golden age story-- "Tale Of Three Tokens". Kid Flash is represented by "The Face Behind The Mask". All of the above are illustrated by Carmine Infantino. Johnny Quick in "The Modern Paul Bunyan", The Metal Men are featured in their origin and premiere--"Flaming Doom". Quality's Quicksilver takes on a villainess named the Wasp. On sale on February 1.

ALL-STAR WESTERN (11, May). Jonah Hex stars in "The Hundred Dollar Deal!" by John Albano with art by Tony DeZuniga. El Diablo is represented by a four page story written by Sergio Aragones and Len Wein with art by Gray Morrow. This is Gray's last art job on the strip. The reprinted Bat Lash story in this issue is the first portion of the story from no. 7 of his magazine. The bookis filled out by Pow-Wow Smith in "The Buffalo Hide Bandits" from Western Comics 79 (art by Carmine Infantino, of course). On sale on February 3.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (101, May). Batman teams up with Metamorpho in a story entitled "Cold Blood, Hot Gun" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. Rounding out the issue is a reprint of Viking Prince with art by Joe Kubert -- "Challenge Of The Flying Horse". On sale on February 3.

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HOUSE OF SECRETS (97, May). "No Bed Of Roses", a 6-pager by John Albano and Jack Sparling. "Phantom Ship", a reprint. "Secret Hero Of Center City", another reprint (art by Alex Toth). "Night Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore", a 6-pager by Len Wein with art by Mike Roye and Mike Peppe. "A Far Away Place", a 3-pager by Albano and Sparling. "Born Losers", an 8 pager by Albano and Mike Kaluta. On sale on February 8.

GI COMBAT (153, May). The Haunted Tank crew has a return match with that pseudo-Patton they met a while back in "The Armored Arc". This is the only ish illustrated by Doug Wildey. There's a Medal Of Honor story in this issue. Battle Album looks at "Prime Movers". USS Stevens is represented by "Mail Call". Reprints are "Straighten That Line" (by Kubert), and "Last Flight". On sale on February 8.

YOUNG ROMANCE (181, April). On sale on February 8.

SINISTER HOUSE OF SECRET LOVE (4, May). "The Devil's Serpent", a 37 page story written by Mary DeZuniga and Mike Fleisher and illustrated by Tony DeZuniga. On sale on February 10.

WITCHING HOUR (20, May). Original stories are "Death Is A Demon In Disguise", "Never Ride With A Stranger", and "Once Upon A Midnight Dreary". The reprint fillers are "Beware The 13th Guest" and "Diamond Hand Of The Sun God". On sale on February 10.

SUPERMAN (250, April). Cary Bates wrote this issue's sequel to the Terra Man story. The title is "Have Horse, Will Travel!" and it is a full-length story. The reprint is Superman in "Superman's Time Capsule", a story that was originally advertising material and is first published in a comic here. It has a new splash page, also. On sale on February 10.

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STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (162, May). The Unknown Soldier sets out to prevent the assassination of General Eisenhower in a very special tale. The book is rounded out by a reprint of The Balloon Buster. If they're going in sequence the story will be "The Ace Of Sudden Death" with art by Russ Heath. On sale on February 15.

YOUNG LOVE (94, April). On sale on February 15.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (201, April). The cover of this issue is by Mike Kaluta. The original stories in this issue are: "The Demon Within" with script by Joe Orlando and John Albano. Art by Jim Aparo. "Put Your Trust In A Killer" by Steve Skeates with art by Adolfo Buylla. "A Tale Of Vengance" by John Albano and Sam Glanzman. Reprints are "Million Dollar Magic" and "Hail The Conquering Aliens" (art by Ruben Moriata). On sale on February 15.

JIMMY OLSEN (148, April). Kirby's 15th and final Olsen issue. Next issue Joe Orlando takes over. Jimmy fights Prof Victor Volcanum, a 100+ year old man who lives in a volcano and eats fire. Also a Tale Of The DNA Project. The reprint is a Newsboy Legion classic -- "The

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Meanest Man On Earth", a tale about a swindler in Suicide Slum. On sale on February 17.

FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (16, May). This issue sports a new cover by Murphy Anderson illustrating a story entitled-- "The World Wrecker". Other stories in the issue: "Doom From Station X" (circa 1953, early Anderson at DC); "Man Who Discovered The 'Earth'"; "1000 Year Old Man"; and "Captives Of The Eclipse". On sale on February 17.

THE NEW GODS (8, May). Detective Sgt. Turpin takes on Kalibak! Orion and Lightray find their way into "The Death Wish Of Terrible Turpin" also. There's also a short story of Fastbak (of the Young Gods) and a reprint of Manhunter (sorry, I don't know the title). On sale on February 17.

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GREEN LANTERN co-starring GREEN ARROW (89, May). An unlucky 13th combined issue for GL and GA. This is the final issue of the magazine. The script is by Denny O'Neil. Pencils and inks by Neal Adams. The story is "And Through Him Save The World", an epic about a young man willing to die for his beliefs. Rounding out the issue is a reprint of the original Green Lantern -- "The Impossible Mr. Paradox" from GL no. 38. Art by Irwin Hasen. On sale on February 22.

LOIS LANE (121, April). Lois begins a new look in this issue which I have a bare minimum of info about. She's a free lance reporter in this story written by Cary Bates from a plot-idea by Irene Vartanoff. The Rose & Thorn story is a short lead-in to next issue's combined Lois/Thorn story. The reprints in this issue are Lois stories. On sale on February 22.

HEART THROBS (140, April). On sale on February 22.

THE UNEXPECTED (134, April). Original stories are "The Restless Dead", "Dressed To Kill", "If The Spirit Is Willing", and "Everything You Always Wanted To Know". Reprints are "The Bravest Man Alive" and "Time Bomb From 1,500 AD". On sale on February 24.

GIRLS' LOVE STORIES (168, April). On sale on February 24.

SUPERBOY (184, April). Superboy in "The Glass Nightmare". The Legion Of Super-Heroes (as rendered by Murphy Anderson and Dave Cockrum) in "One Legionnaire Must Go". The reprint is the first tale of "Dial H For Hero-- Robby Reed" from House Of Mystery 156. On sale on February 24.

+

ADVENTURE COMICS (418, April). Supergirl and Jonny Double star in an 18 page story -- "Face Of The Dragon" by Len Wein and Bob Oskner. The Black Canary gets her own solo adventures with this first of two parts by Denny O'Neil and Alex Toth. There's a previously unpublished story of Dr. Mid-Nite written and pencilled in 1948 and inked in 1971 by Sal Amendola. The title is "The Sight Stealers". The reprint is The Phantom Stranger in "Death's Strange Deputy". On sale on February 29.

ACTION COMICS (411, April). Superman in "The Day They Sold Superman's Fortress" and "The Girl Who Worshipped Clark Kent". The first appearance of Eclipso from House Of Secrets 61 by Lee Elias is also included-- "Eclipso--The Genius Who Fought Himself". On sale on February 29.

TARZAN OF THE APES (207, April). Edgar Rice Burroughs' greatest adventure character moves to National Periodicals. The lead story is a beautiful adaptation of the first portion of ERB's first story of the ape-man. Pencils, inks, and adaptation by Joe Kubert. Plus a three page Hal Foster Sunday strip story. Rounding out the issue is the first installment of John Carter Of Mars with art by Murphy Anderson. On sale on February 29.

DETECTIVE COMICS (422, April). The Batman investigates a series of truck disappearances in "Highway To Nowhere" by Frank Robbins, Bob Brown, and Dick Giordano. Batgirl is represented by "The Unmasking Of Batgirl". From World's Finest 59 (1952) comes "Bush-trackers", a Manhunters Around The World feature. The other reprint is "The Unseen Clue". On sale on February 29.

ALL DATES ON BOTH THE DC AND MARVEL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF DISTRIBUTERS.

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Fandom Forum

WHAT FANDOM NEEDS IS A GOOD...

We're getting pretty big y'know. We've got our own bi-weekly, our own monthly, our own bi-monthly, our own quarterly, and our own annual magazines. We've printed art folios and complete graphic stories. We even hold regional meetings once a month. During the summer, we draw about 2,500 people to a posh New York hotel.

SO WHAT? WHO CARES? We do. It's about time that fandom showed some of its ingenuity and size to the world that still thinks anything with four colors and a balloon is not for anyone over age ten. It's about time that national magazines knew that the real relevance in comics started back in the early fifties, with stories like "Judgement Day" and "Outcast of the Stars" NOT just recently with a pitiable man in a green mask. BUT it must be done well — without malice and without hostility.

WHAT FANDOM NEEDS IS A GOOD PRESS AGENT.

That's it, folks. Somebody who'll be motivated to go to the New York Times and say "Lookit, Mr. Editor! There are all these thousands of people who read magazines printed on a subject they mutually enjoyed for years. Graphic stories. Now isn't it about time you trimmed the size of the stamp collectors column in section 2 or the mystery book column in the book section and started to devote some regular space to the graphic story and the people who appreciate it?" It's about time we had a well poised spokesman who shows up on Virginia Graham or Dick Cavett or even Sesame Street to talk about the quality of comic book art and the quality of fandom's analytic journals (fanzines) or as Richard Kyle calls them collectively: The Limited Edition Press.

What fandom needs is a good press agent. Somebody who'll arrange high-quality exhibitions of graphic story collections or who'll see to it that college communications and art library shelves contain the likes of Fantastic Fanzine and/or SquaTront. What we need is somebody who'll take the time to find out just how many fans there are.

BYRON PREISS

Byron Preiss does a regular column for College entitled "Prefan".

ETC.

As I write this I haven't even gotten Etc/TCR 80 back from the printer yet so I am a little up in the air. (Not that the printer's late, just that I'm early.)

Anyway, this is an important month for Etc/TCR. The subs of some 325 of you expire with this issue. As that is the case I have included a handy-dandy re-ordering form on the last page. I hope that you'll take advantage of this and mail in your renewal promptly if you plan to. I will be very busy this up-coming month with my end-terms and I may have some problems processing orders.

Now I'd like to publicly thank both Roy Thomas and Stan Lee for giving me the information necessary to turn the Marvel listings into the decent list that it now is. Now for my periodic thanks to my various news-sources: Mark Hanerfeld, Marv Wolfman, Julie Schwartz, E. Nelson Bridwell, Murray Boltinoff, Denny O'Neil, Len Wein, Ed Lolacher, & anyone whom I may have forgotten.

I was planning to run an article on the 1971 circulation reports in Etc/TCR but as it has been expanding and expanding and expanding I've decided to turn it into a "Comic Economics" feature for Comic Fandom Monthly. You might want to catch it there (it'll be in no. 9 or so).

Next issue: News (should be a lot of DC News), Coming Comics, Reviews, Wandering Fan (Can We Please Have The Old Code Back), Radar In The Void, perhaps a half page of Curt Swan Super-Kinney, and a special feature on myself and Etcetera in honor of one year of publication. Probably a cover too, but no guarantees.

Hey, how about a rousing public cheer for the people who actually put this mag together each month? I'm talking about the mob who help me coallate this mess: Paul Kupperberg, Steve Gilary, Liam O'Connor, Jim Glean, Jerry Berger, and a batch of people whose last names I've yet to learn. Thanks to you all.

Letters of comment would be very nice to receive. I don't know what you like and what you don't so WRITE! I will shape this magazine to your tastes but I can't unless you inform me of them.

Hmm...I'm out of things to say so

PEACE!

FANZINES& The Fan Scene

PHASE 1 is a super slick artzine. It has so many pros in it that at times it reads like the ACBA membership list--Brunner, Colan, O'Neil, Skeates, Conway, Morrow, Wolfman, Buckler, Jones, Barr, Kaluta, Smith, Sutton, Wein, DeZuniga, and Adams.

The cover by Barr is a beautiful piece (painted in full color). It depicts King Arthur and his knights battling the demons of hell.

We then move on to the credits and the book itself.

The majority of the stories look like they walked out of a Warren magazine. The notable exceptions to this are"Sally's Song" by Kaluta, a beautiful fairy tale; and "Comic Book Freak" by Tom Sutton, which was a very funny story in the Mad vein. "Coming of the Piranhas" with story by O'Neil and art by Skeates was even further out of place. Steve Skeates is a good writer but he employs a cartooning style similar to a three year old (and not a three year old Frank Frazetta). The story is one of social comment with some use of satire. The effect is good, but placed against the slick work in the rest of the book it is outrageious. As stated most of the remaining stuff is Warren-type except it comes off better.

The Frank Brunner contribution is a B&S piece with the usual cliches but it comes off well because the art and dialog is better than usual.

"Comes The Grey Dawn" is a two pager but if beautiful in art and story.

A Ken Barr anti-war story rings very true. Both the story and art (painting, I believe) is excellent.

"Hero" by Bill Maher is the first part of a continued tale which is partially a Halloween fantasy.

The Steve Fritz story is a poorish doomsday predictive story with a typical chicho ending.

"Dragon Slayer" by Wein and DeZuniga is a surprise ending that comes off well.

And last (by a number of months) but not least is a Neal Adams story preaching against the war. The story and art were good but the result is bittersweet because it delayed the publication of Phase 1 by some six months.

Rounding out the issue are two illustrated text stories (Ken Smith and Gray Morrow) and a number of one page illos. Good illos are by Anderson, Graham, Kelly, and Shores. Recent illos are contributed by Bill Stillwell and Berni Wrightson and poor work is represented by Adkins and Rocchia.

Overall the mag is over-priced but fun reading and the art for the most part is impeccable. Well worth reading. PHASE 1 is $5 from Phase, 4314 Clarendon Road, Brklyn, NY 11203. Staff:Sal Quartuccio, John Carbonaro, Doug Paley, Jim Ciccolella. 84 pages.

//L. O'Connor .

MENOMONIE FALLS GAZETTE is THE ultimate strip collector's zine. It has 14 of the best. I am sure that most people cannot easily get many of the strips (I get only three in my paper). Some of the strips are Modesty Blaise, James Bond (book adaptations, not movies), Air Hawk (Australian), Tarzan, Secret Agent Corrigan (Al Williamson), Rip Kirby, and more. The price is reasonable--35¢ for a single, about 30¢ by sub. It would cost that much to get only the American strips in the issue. The paper is excellent and should be kept going.

MFG is published weekly by Jerome Sinkovec, N85 W16505 Mary Court, Menomonee Falls, Wis 53051. 12 issues for $4.50. Printed on newsprint. The Gazette will reprint 1939 Superman strips beginning with its third or fourth issue.

//L. O'Connor

Duffy Vohland reports being very tied up with some personal matters and is temporarily unable to fullfil his various fan obligations. He hopes to catch up within a couple of months and he'll get articles out to whomever he owes them to (like me) by then.

Changing Times, a subscription-only magazine, had a one page article on fandom in its Jan 1972 issue. The article plugged Buyer's Guide, and mentioned Gary Groth, Terry Stroud, the Price Guide, and other such things. A one pager and, as usual, completionists may get a copy by sending me 10¢ to cover costs (that's a photostat, people).

The Sunday NY News of Jan 2 had a three page article on Marvel Comics in the magazine section. Color and very interesting. It included quotes from Phil Seuling and talk about promoter Lemberg's plans for Marvel characters.

Fan News will be printed if you send it in now that Noofanglos has gone to the great beyond.

Well friends, Charlie Swift and I attended part of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Con last weekend. Our reasons for going were to meet local active fans in sf and other comics fans that might attend. There are surprisingly few comics fan in Philly. We did make contacts to follow up, and I did get a stronger impression of what sf fandom is like. I'd like to compare and contrast it to comics fandom for a definate purpose.

Sf fandom is much larger than comic fandom and less cohesive. Having been an accepted literary form for some time, science fiction naturally attracts more fans and from a wider age group. Emphasis is on the speculative aspects which are its most mature and relevant area. Comics still are not considered to be legitimate by most people. In its commercial form the comics have been embraced by children as offering ready escapist entertainment; the whole medium has been sadle stigmatized by this. Often one of the reasons comic fans bind together is to defend their interests against adverse pressures.

Sf fanzines are characterized by volumous writing accompanied by a minimum of artwork. Most zines of the hundreds published each year are small budget and are intended for a special readership within the larger fandom. There are no zines that a majority of fans have seen. The zines emphasize articles, stories, columns, book reviews, and lengthly letter columns resembling Apas. The writing is generally good and the tone is always informal. Comic fanzines number fewer and have younger publishers but are characterized by a terrific intensity. This is because all are centered around art and discussion of art of fans and pros. The quality of pro art over the years has always been far ahead of the writing. Comics zines run many articles about specific comics and characters, but sustain fewer columns, reviews, and other substantial prose. Adding to the intensity is the tremendous business of buying and selling comics material. Most fans want to collect certain titles and will spend huge sums in the attempt. Most fans know of half a dozen big name zines. They serve as clearing houses for information, trading, and criticism. They exercise strong influence over the price of comics, style of art, and critical theory among fans.

Sf cons seem more like regular conventions where a party-like atmosphere prevails. Everyone comes knowing their main enjoyment will be talking with other fans. The programs are difuse. Established standards of quality and pb reprinting mean there is less material to collect at cons and less money spent. This keeps the emphasis on the fan to fan contact. Comicons are characterized by younger fans and huge outlays of money for old comics and fanzines. The programs are mostly arranged around visuals, either posters, displays, movies, interviews and/or fan feedback with pro artists.

The aspect of the two fandoms that distinguishes them the most is their critical output. Sf has encompassed most of its horizons by this time. Arguments over basic form and theory have been worked out and are taken for granted. Matters of taste and personal preference spark most of the present controversies. But comics criticism has a definate and urgent purpose behind it. There has been so very little good material in pro comics despite the decades of production that the concerned critics have turned their energies towards preparing and shaping theories about the potential of the medium as Art even tough they write in almost a complete vacuum. The task of carrying the message that the 'graphic story' is a legitimate and mature form of expression to the general public and (even) to most of fandom, lends the writing a heady bravado that feeds on itself. There is a growing awareness of this young but refined critical tradition by all concerned.

Given these generalizations about

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RADAR IN THE VOID by Tom Greenlones (continued)

about the two fandoms, and correct me if I err, how could they benefit most from each other? Seems to me that the weakest area of one is the strongpoint of the other. SFers have few artists working in zines or professionally. Comic fandom has many skillful artists but few, if any, skilled writers interested in storytelling. What I'm getting at is putting writers from Sf into contact with artists from comics to cooperate doing graphic stories.

What would indicate the need for this limited merger? At the Phila. Con Phil Seuling had a table and laid out various and sundry high class zines devoted to fan and pro art, and nostalgia, all very visual. The table was so crowded you could hardly squeeze in to browse. Also the Star Trek fandom has proved surprisingly durable. This is attributable, I think, to the series being one of the few times sf has expanded into a predominantly visual medium, let alone so successfully.

In both fan and pro comics the problem blocking progress is escaping the Marvel style of comic. Because their method of production places about 80% of the storytelling burden on the artist, little progress has been made after that inital leap nine years ago. We need more writers interested in writing good fantasy-fiction.

I'm convinced that when better graphic stories are seen, they will be seen in fandom; not prodom. It doesn't matter which fandom.

Personally I'm very interested in contacting amateur sf writers who are attracted by my proposal. Any of you who are, or who know of a writer who would be interested, please contact me at 4718 N. 9 St., Phila 19141, and we'll discuss it further. Talking with zine eds at the con including the editor of Granfalloon, a better known zine, netted me no leads. The Phila. SF Society who sponsered the con holds monthly meetings the second Friday of each month, I discovered, at the Student Activities Center, Drexel Univ., 32 and Chestnut St at 8 PM. That may hold promise, Adios.

REVIEWS

BRAVE & BOLD 100 was possibly one of the best stories I've read this year. When I first heard about the multi-team-up, I thought that it would be a so-so story which would try to get some point across, but would fail as usual. But very much to my surprise Bob Haney and Jim Aparo did a very good job. For once an anniversary issue was something special.

It opened with something that most readers have wondered about for some time...why hasn't someone tried to kill Batman with a bullet? Well, finally someone has, but why didn't the killer aim for his head? Oh well.

Now to the story; it looks as if DC has "attacked" the drug scene once again. Not as dramatically as the GL/GA story, but still good. It's very effective the way Batman tries to seek out the drug ring but each time he fails and must call aid. His inspiration comes from, of all things, a spider. It would have been funnier if Spider-Man had swung by giving Batman the will to fight but..... Anyhow the spider and the fly is a nice analogy of what Batman must do. In his book, Dr. Wertham says that Batman and Robin are homosexuals and further evidence of this can be seen in the attitude Robin takes towards Black Canary (pgs 7, 15). Haney tells a good story and he makes it exciting, in which Batman baits Belknap and vica versa. A very good effect is when GA actually kills a man during a fight... something not seen too frequently in DC comics. I think that Haney stero-typed Black Canary too much as with the hair dryer incident (It was funny, I admit). Of course, he had to comment on womens' lib. The final scenes of the operation were handled very well. Well done, Aparo and Haney.

/Paul Hugli

NOTICE: Phase 1 is now out. Anyone who has ordered a copy will receive it shortly. This is not just a promise, I have seen a copy personally. I'll have some info on their future disasters in an issue or two.

ETC-TCR 82 OUT ON FEBRUARY 12!

CONVENTION REPORT

The following Creation con '71 report is by Neal Pozner with an able assist by Barry Stitch and some pinch-hitting by ye editor.

For me, Creation, the 1971 Art Convention (as it was billed everywhere) started on Friday, November 26, the day before the con actually opened to the public. This was the case for the entire staff, whose jobs included checking out the whole mess and putting together the membership packets. Other chores were the dealer's room set-up, and general assistance to con chairman Adam Malin. As it turned out, about fifteen or twenty people showed up, the dealers being in a Very small minority. Because so few showed up that day, it caused delays in the starting of the actual con; but more on that later.

The program book, sans inserts, was twenty-eight pages and was covered by the Kenneth Smith devil illo that Adam used on so many ads and on the con posters. The artists' folio included published and unpublished pieces by Frazetta, Kaluta, Kline, Krenkel, Morrow, Wrightson, and many others. Also included in the booklet was a four-page fan strip entitled "Butch Malin & The Berman Kid", written by Adam Malin and illustrated by fan talents Randy Yeates and Rick Rydell.

Because of apparant mix-ups, some registrants from out-of-town appeared at the second floor of the New Yorker hotel, which was reserved for the con's activities. These out-of-towners had to make do with sleeping on the floor of other attendee's rooms.

After many delays in the Dealers' room (most of the seventy-plus dealers arrived Saturday morning!), the room where most of the people would spend most of their time opened around 10, instead of the scheduled 9. Phil Seuling, Passaic Book Center, Alan Asherman, Marv Wolfman, and many others had tables in the large room. There where over 75 tables in the room and most of the dealers' still had room behind their tables for stock.

The Keynote Speech was scheduled for 11:30. Turning up at the last second (it seems that he Never gets up until after noon.) Jim Steranko spent a good amount of time totally boring the majority of the audience with his sick jokes and anecdotes about cons. His one good line was about how he saw some young artists praying to an elevator Jim Warren was in. At least he thought they were praying...they were carrying a big wooden cross...

By thetime the speech had ended a small segment of the enormous art display was set up. After walking up an obscure, narrow, winding staircase you came out on a balcony with a long row of tables and easels. At no one time was the entire display up, but, because of its size, there were several display switches at irregular intervals. In addition to the fine art of such talents as Jones, Kaluta, Krenkel, Morrow, Todd, and Wrightson, rare comics and pulps and Star Trek props were on display.

The next scheduled event was an interview with Barry Alan Richmond, director of the world-famous French Theatre of Horror And Comedy. None of the people that I've contacted saw this event so I'm forced to go by heresay not too many comic fans were interested in it.

The next event was a pro mini-con. The panel consisted of: E. Nelson Bridwell, Mike Kaluta, Denny O'Neil, Mark Hanerfeld, Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, Chip Storob (a fan who moderated the panel), Alan Kupperberg (a DC production staffer), Gerry Conway, Roy Thomas, Alan Weiss, Berni Wrightson, Neal Adams, and Larry Ivie. The panel lasted two hours and would have been perfect if not for the pitifully poor moderating job of Chip Storob. He not only led the panel in the wrong direction, but he frequently answered questions directed to one of the pros. Thankfully, toward the end, Mark Hanerfeld salvaged the panel by taking the mike and giving the panel some direction.

The various DC pros talked about many new developments (a number of which had previously been Don't Quote items), and Roy Thomas discussed the new Marvel sword & sorcery line. Thomas also offered his opinions on the Funky Flashman/Houseroy story in Mr Miracle. He stated that he felt it was in very poor taste and that it reflected more on

Kirby than it did on Lee and Thomas. He also noted that Kirby had parodied Joe Simon after that team broke up.

The most interesting quote of the panel was: "There are some things that god and Carmine Infantino did not plan for us to understand!" -- Denny O'Neil.

The panel finally broke up when it was noticed that it was time for the Steranko Hour to begin. For the most part, Steranko held a question & answer session. He hopes to get volume two of his History out soon. The six volume History is just one of the many projects that Supergraphics has in the works.

Steranko blasted both National and Marvel for their drug stories. He said that if the major companies gave a damn about the drug problem they would distribute these books free of charge to schools and worthwhile organizations. He is doing this with his story on addiction--The Block. Jim said he is paid nothing for this, but considers it worthwhile if it can prevent the least bit of misery in the world. He also believes that drugs will remain in the comics spotlight only as long as they sell comics. Jim also talked about Jack Kirby, who he considers the all-time king of super-hero art, and Stan Lee and Marvel.

Following the Steranko Hour was the first auction. Unfortunately, the auctioneers were inexperienced and did a poor job. Another deterrand to the bidding was the high minimum bids stipulated. Even a beautiful mint copy of Action Comics No. 1 went unsold.

The film show started in the early evening. The masterwork of Richard Corben--Neverwhere--was shown. This animated film ranks in my top three favorites. It was really amazing.

Unfortunately, the other films shown were below mediocre. The projector soon boke down and the rest of the scheduled films were postponed for a day.

Sunday's first major event was a showing of many of the films postponed from Saturday night as well as several planned for that time period. The only film I was really interested in was "Those Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers Acquire A Groupie," a film adaptation of the story appearing in the underground comic Feds 'n Heads by Gilbert Sheldon. It was quite a let-down. Due to poor acting and a bad job of converting the written diologue to spoken, the film failed to appeal to me as much as the underground comic. The majority of the other fils were science fiction.

Al Shuster was the auctioneer at the second auction, held between films. This time it was well done. Shuster is a very personable fellow and the minimum bids were done away with. The only fault was that few people had money, it being the afternoon of the last day of the con. Nevertheless, it was very enjoyable.

The next (& last) panel was a Web of Horror discussion by Brunner, Jones, Kaluta, Weiss, Wolfman, and Wrightson. They talked mostly about their plans for the magazine when Jones and Wrightson were supposed to edit it. There was also some talk about the circumstances of the death of Web. The high point of the panel was the revealing of the winners of the amateur art contest in Web.

These panels and film shows, in addition to an EC slide show, seemed not to take priority over the Dealers' Room. Certainly, not as much attention was devoted to the entertainments as to the buyers and sellers. To me, this was the major fault of the con. Hopefully, it will be rectified in time for next year's three-day event. Maybe I'll see you there.

Con attendee Stuart Nager reports that he and a friend were robbed of $20 in cash and a camera valued at about $150 at the bathroom on the mezzaine level of the con. Hey Adam...that's another place for Security to watch.

Two days before this issue went to print (an event delayed for four days by problems with the Marvel news section) I saw an advance copy of The Monster Times. I strongly recommend it to all fans who should have seen it on their newsstands on January 12. The cost is 50¢ & it comes out bi-weekly. Issue two is a special Star Trek issue. The mag is 32 New York Times-sized pages including a color poster.

Last minute note: Etc 2 and 3 and TCR 75 are now sold out. Do not order them.